

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the final fiscal year 2003 appropriations bill includes \$10 million for the construction of the Large Millimeter Telescope (LMT) in Mexico. Olver was instrumental in securing the funding in the final version of the bill. The full \$10 million will be used for the construction of the LMT.

"The Large Millimeter Telescope (LMT) project will be capable of vastly extending our knowledge of the universe," Olver said. "This is a major scientific achievement and I am proud to have helped secure the funding for it."

UMass Amherst Chancellor John V. Lombardi said: "We're extremely grateful for the leadership of Congressman Olver in securing this funding. This is a major step forward for the LMT project and for the scientific community."

"The ability to deliver on the science and the support for this extraordinary scientific collaboration is a testament to the leadership of Congressman Olver and the UMass Amherst community," Lombardi said.

The \$90-million LMT project is a cooperative effort between UMass Amherst and Mexico's National Institute of Astrophysics (INAOE). The LMT is the largest single-dish millimeter-wave telescope in the world. It will be used to study the birth of stars and galaxies, and the evolution of the universe.

"This telescope will dramatically improve our understanding of the birth of stars as well as shed insight on the evolution of the universe," Lombardi said.

Construction of the LMT is currently underway on the peak of Cerro LaNegra, a mountain in central Mexico. The LMT is expected to be completed in 2005.

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